

SOCIALIST PARTY OF GREAT BRITAIN.

To :All Branches S.P.G.B.
Subject: CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS.
From: Asst Gen.Sec.

18.4.6.

Dear Comrades,

Find below a list of the resolutions, both Instructed and from the Floor passed at the 1950 Annual Conference.

INSTRUCTED RESOLUTIONS.

AMENDMENT TO RULES.

(1) CAMBERWELL BRANCH. "A member shall not belong to any other political organisation, or write or speak for any other political party except in opposition". CARRIED 24 - 1.

INSTRUCTED RESOLUTIONS.

MEMBERSHIP & ORGANISATION.(1)

(1) CAMBERWELL BRANCH. "That this Conference affirms that the Party's attitude to reforms and reformism is as laid down in the E.C.'s reply to the revisional Committee in the 'W.B. of Upton Park' controversy of 1910. This Conference further affirms that the reply of the 1959 E.C. to Fulham branch on this question is an unsatisfactory and misleading statement of the Party's case in that it implies that the Party is opposed to reforms as such, and therefore calls upon the E.C. to prepare a fresh statement on the issue". CARRIED 25 - 13.

(2) FULHAM & CHELSEA BRANCH. "That this Conference censures the 1959 E.C. for their reply to Fulham & Chelsea branch on the reform question and accepts Comrade Lake's statement, in his circular to branches, as the Party's case on reforms." CARRIED 18 - 17.

(3) CAMBERWELL BRANCH. "That this Conference holds membership of the Armed Forces or Police to be incompatible with membership of the Party". CARRIED 19 - 16. Party 10?

EDUCATION RESOLUTION.

(4) DARTFORD BRANCH AS AMENDED BY LEWISHAM BRANCH. "That this Conference instructs the E.C. to investigate and report upon the possibility of weekend and summer schools". AMENDMENT & SUB - RWS CARRIED 40 - 1.

ELECTORAL ACTIVITY.

(5) BLOOMSBURY BRANCH. "That this Conference instructs the E.C. to set up a special sub-committee to examine the Party Rules relating to electoral activity with a view to considering changes that may be advisable in the light of current conditions, and the Party's experience. The report to be presented this year". CARRIED 33 - 4.

(6) PADDINGTON BRANCH. "That this Conference instructs the E.C. to commence immediately investigations into the possibility of contesting one of the Nottingham Divisions at the next election".

CARRIED 30 - 14.

(7) PADDINGTON BRANCH. "That this Conference instructs the E.C. to investigate the methods adopted by the Party in contesting elections".

CARRIED 39 - 4.

DISCIPLINARY RESOLUTIONS

(1) MEMBERSHIP & ORGANISATION. Charge against Comrade R. Coster.

RESOLUTION R. COOK. (Birmingham) & L. COX (Fulham & Chelsea) "That this Conference having heard the charge against Comrade R. Coster, recommends that - as it has been found necessary to amplify and clarify Rule 5, the charge against him be dropped, on the grounds that a reasonable misinterpretation could have arisen". CARRIED 23 - 14.

(2) RESOLUTION FRANCIS (ISLINGTON) & H. YOUNG (HAMPSTEAD) "That the findings of Conference on the charge against Comrade R. Coster be put to a Party Poll". AGREED.

EDUCATION.

(3) RESOLUTION ISLINGTON BRANCH "That this Conference recommends the E.C. to investigate the possibility of holding a series of theoretical lectures". CARRIED WITHOUT DIVISION.

D'Arcy, May, & Bailey, Crowley - Investigation Committee

LITERATURE.

(4) RESOLUTION F.LAWRENCE (LEWISHAM) & H.YOUNG (HAMPSTEAD) "This Conference holds that the planning of special issues of the C.S. widen the scope of socialist propaganda and endorses the present policy of the Editorial committee". CARRIED 25 - 3.

(5) RESOLUTION PADLINGTON BRANCH "This Conference recommends that the Central Literature Sales Committee approaches W.H.Smith or other multiple newsagents with a view to obtaining the display of the C.S. and other literature at their shops; the Party to guarantee the newsagents a reasonable profit". CARRIED BY A LARGE MAJORITY.

(6) RESOLUTION H.YOUNG (HAMPSTEAD) & R.ROSE (LEWISHAM) "This Conference recommends that monies donated to the Party for purposes of its work are best devoted to printed propaganda publication".

CARRIED 19 - 8.

Yours fraternally,

John Keys
Jon Keys.

Assistant General Secretary.

~~Investigation requires as wide as possible~~

① Knowledge of facts

②

③ Valuable to give ^{viewpoints} lead to Branches.
Morale - interest - co-operation - liaison -

Why.

④ The absence of facts

⑤

Party resolution.

FILE COPY

REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE 56th ANNUAL CONFERENCE held at
CONWAY HALL, RED LION SQUARE, W.C.1. FRIDAY, SATURDAY & SUNDAY,
15th, 16th, & 17th APRIL.
1960.

Attendance during Conference.

	Delegates present.	Branches represented.
First day :	36.	16.
Second day:	37.	18.
Third day :	30.	15.

Branches not in attendance on Friday :-

Birmingham, Dartford, Eccles, Glasgow City, Kelvingrove & West Ham.

Branches not in attendance on Saturday:-

Dartford, Eccles, Glasgow City & Kelvingrove.

Branches not in attendance on Sunday :-

Dartford, Eccles, Fulham, Glasgow City, & Kelvingrove. Two other branches were absent but their names are not known, as the Standing Orders committee did not report the names of branches present on Sunday.

Conference Sessions.

First day :	11.35.a.m. to 6.p.m.
Second day:	2.45.p.m. to 6.p.m.
Third day :	11.35.a.m. to 5.30.p.m.

CONFERENCE CHAIRMAN -- A. GEORGE (BLOOMSBURY BRANCH).

VICE-CHAIRMAN -- J. EDMONDS (LEWISHAM BRANCH).

It was agreed that the STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE act as TELLERS during the course of the Conference proceedings.

1.(a) Executive Committee meetings - No Action.

1.(b) " " attendances- No Action.

2. Branches, Membership & Organisation.

CHARGE AGAINST R.COSTER. It was generally agreed to accept the E.C's recommendation on this matter, and to hear the charge on the Saturday.

BRANCH REPRESENTATION - VOTE RECORDING.

The Standing Orders Committee reported that W.Ham branch would not be in attendance on the Friday, but wished their votes to be recorded.

RESOLUTION GOODMAN (Paddington branch) & R.CRITCHFIELD (Ealing branch)
"That West Ham branch votes be not recorded unless a representative of
the branch appears." CARRIED BY AN OVERWHELMING MAJORITY.

AMENDMENTS TO RULES.

It was suggested by a delegate that the amendment to rules be taken on the Saturday to avoid duplication of discussion.

RESOLUTION R.CRITCHFIELD (Ealing) & I.CORRIE (Islington) "That the whole of the amendments to rules be taken now." CARRIED BY A LARGE MAJORITY.

RULES 2 and 9. Dues payments.

Paddington branch Resolution & Amendment.

BOTH LOST 4 - 33.

Fulham branch. Two resolutions.

BOTH LOST 12 - 25.

Wood Green branch. Three resolutions.

ALL LOST 1 - 36.

RULE 4.

Paddington branch. One resolution.

LOST 12 - 24.

RULE 5.

Paddington branch. One resolution.

LOST 8 - 29.

Camberwell branch. Addendum.

LOST 3 - 33.

Islington branch. One resolution.

LOST 13 - 24.

Camberwell branch. One resolution.

CARRIED 24 - 15.

RULE 12.

Wood Green branch. One resolution.

LOST 13 - 26.

RULE 16.

Paddington branch. One resolution.

LOST 13 - 26.

RULE 19.

Paddington branch. One resolution.

LOST 17 - 19.

RULE 28.

Camberwell branch. One resolution.

LOST 15 - 26.

FINANCE. Hackney branch Item for discussion.21.

TREASURER. We must do something about our activity which is costing us more and more as time goes on. Income has fallen below expenditure, and only a legacy has saved us for the moment. We might have had to get rid of our H.O. Assistant, cheapened the S.S. and of course raised the dues. If we could increase our activity, we might increase our income. It might be worth while using our money to further the circulation of the S.S.

SUMMARISATION OF DELEGATES VIEWS.

It was thought that a statement of what was spent on H.O. should be in the statement of accounts. Also that H.O. and any other assets should also appear there. It was variously suggested that we should sell H.O. and move somewhere central, and at the same time use H.O. as fully as possible. Have a series of pamphlets. Let the shop portion of H.O. This item gave rise to the following resolution and amendment.

RESOLUTION H.YOUNG(Hampstead) & R.Rose(Lewisham) "This Conference recommends that monies donated to the Party for purposes of its work are best devoted to printed propaganda publication." CARRIED 19 - 8.

AMENDMENT E.CALLOWON & I.JONES (Paddington) "That this conference recommends that monies donated to the Party be used only for propaganda purposes and not for merely administrative expenditure such as up-keep of Head Office etc., LOST 8 - 22.

PROPAGANDA. Islington branch Item for discussion 16.

AMENDMENT OF DELEGATES VIEWS

- that there are few out-door propaganda stations in

London to
a position
committee
Responsibility
have

London today. Meetings are not run efficiently and branches are not in a position to appoint speakers, as they were in the past. The Propaganda committee are in a better position to do these things, and should be responsible for running all London outdoor meetings. Both members and the committee seem to be apathetic about meetings. It was said that times have changed, and good meeting places are far and few between, and that we should cultivate these. Members should not dissipate their efforts on the dead spots. We should seek other ways of putting our case over and selling our literature. The quality of our propaganda and our propagandists is said to have declined, and it was suggested that the fault lies with the Propaganda committee. They should see that our propaganda is co-ordinated and members supplied with information. Also that we must specialise our propaganda.

PROPAGANDA. Islington branch Item for discussion 17. (Lectures)

SUMMARISATION OF DELEGATES VIEWS.

It was said that members have not the knowledge that they should have. That our speakers are of poor quality. That there is a dull attitude in the Party. Nothing before or since Marx. That a series of theoretical lectures would help to fill a long felt want. The following resolution arose from this discussion.

RESOLUTION DOCHERTY & CORRIE (Islington) "That this Conference recommends the E.C. to investigate the possibility of holding a series of theoretical lectures." CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT.

3. LITERATURE. Paddington branch Item for discussion 18.

SUMMARISATION OF DELEGATES VIEWS.

Members generally seemed to be of the opinion that the general layout of the S.S. was much better than it used to be. That special issues linked up with meetings and other events was a good thing. It was thought that we should make strenuous efforts to push the S.S. through Wholesalers, by guaranteeing their rate of profit. It was also thought that the general decline in the sales of the S.S. had been arrested by the improvements in the S.S. Other members disagreed with these views, being of the opinion that pictures etc., restrict the amount of written propaganda that can be put over. Special issues came under the same sort of criticism; that they tend to restrict the scope of the S.S. Other members were of the view that we should not overdo special issues, and only have them occasionally. One or two members seemed to be of the opinion that every issue of the S.S. was now a special issue. Three resolutions were moved from the floor arising from this discussion. They are as follows.

RESOLUTION PADDINGTON BRANCH "This Conference recommends that the Central Literature Sales committee approaches W.H. Smith or other multiple newsagents with a view to obtaining the display of the S.S. and other literature at their shops; the Party to guarantee the newsagents a reasonable profit." CARRIED BY A LARGE MAJORITY.

RESOLUTION P.LAWRENCE (Lewisham) & H.YOUNG (Hampstead) "This Conference holds that the planning of special issues of the S.S. widen the scope of socialist propaganda and endorses the present policy of the Editorial committee." CARRIED 25 - 3.

RESOLUTION ISLINGTON BRANCH "That this Conference is of the opinion that special issues of the S.S. tend to restrict the scope of the S.S. as a propaganda journal." LOST 4 - 25.

2. BRANCHES, MEMBERSHIP & ORGANISATION.

CHARGE AGAINST R.COSTER.

The General Secretary read the relevant correspondence and the two articles referred to in the charge. In answer to questions, the General Secretary informed the delegation that Coster had been asked if he had anything to say on the matter, but had declined. A letter had been sent by him to the E.C. but he had subsequently telephoned and asked the General Secretary to withdraw it. This the secretary had reluctantly done.

In addition to the delegates who spoke on the charge, 11 E.C. members also spoke. The views of all are summarised as follows.

In the interest af the working class. We have always known that the reforms that we have considered from time to time were not in the interest of the working class.

FULHAM BRANCH ADDENDUM	LOST	17	-	23.
BLOOMSBURY AMENDMENT	LOST	7	-	33.
ISLINGTON & PADDINGTON AMENDMENT	LOST	13	-	28.
HACKNEY RESOLUTION 1.	CARRIED	25	-	13.

RESOLUTION 2. FULHAM BRANCH. AMENDMENT PADDINGTON BRANCH.
PADDINGTON AMENDMENT LOST 15 - 21. FULHAM RESOLUTION CARRIED 18 - 17.

RESOLUTION 3. CAMBERWELL BRANCH.(Armed forces question). CARRIED 19 - 16.

RESOLUTION 4. FULHAM BRANCH.(Membership question on T.U.) LOST 5 - 27.

RESOLUTION 5. WOOD GREEN BRANCH. (Branch minute books). LOST 19 - 21.

EDUCATION.

RESOLUTION 6. DARTFORD BRANCH. A MENDMENT LEWISHAM.
AMENDMENT AND RESOLUTION AS AMENDED CARRIED 40 - 1.

7. ELECTORAL ACTIVITY.

RESOLUTION 7. BLOOMSBURY BRANCH CARRIED 33 - 4.
RESOLUTION 8. PADDINGTON BRANCH CARRIED 39 - 4.
RESOLUTION 9. PADDINGTON BRANCH AND ADDENDUM FULHAM.
ADDENDUM LOST 17 - 21. RESOLUTION CARRIED 30 - 14.

3. BRANCHES, MEMBERSHIP & ORGANISATION.

Hackney branch Item for discussion No 11.

Summarisation of members views.

It was said that we are stagnating, and that we should do something about it. The fault we were told lies in the Party. We are too smug. We should take up a Marxist viewpoint on things of current interest like Africa, and the C.N.D. Some members seem to be of the opinion that the Party has a monopoly of all the ideas, and that we have nothing to learn. Others thought that we had more to say about current events than anyone else, and also that we should say it. It was thought that we are far too antagonistic in our approach to our audiences. We apparently take the hostility clauses literally in all fields. Some members thought that we should give support to the coloured movements in Africa. It was said that we should try to integrate not only our propaganda, but our branches. Propaganda should be planned on a long term basis. Tape recorded lectures should be sent round to the branches, and a library set up of them at H.O. It was also suggested that the decline in membership was to a large extent provincial.

i. CENTRAL ORGANISER'S REPORT.

The view was expressed that the Central Organiser would have done better to report on his own activities, rather than on the shortcomings of others. The report was thought to be disappointing. Others thought the report was a good one, and that we should not discourage the C.O. by trying to limit his terms of reference.

RESOLUTION ISLINGTON BRANCH " That this conference expresses dissatisfaction with the Central Organiser's report and expresses the opinion that in future he should report on his own activities during the year under review." RESOLUTION LOST 7 - 21.

EDUCATION. Items for discussion No.14. Camberwell branch & No.15. Paddington branch. In view of the lateness of the hour it was agreed to tak the two items together.

It was thought that any talks, lectures, etc., on literature or any other subject should take place in the branch, and not at H.O. Members should not be forced to travel to Clapham. The E.C. should see that a series of talks goes on in the branches.

Jon. Keys.

General Secretary.

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